REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 12-45 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 8, 13, 19, 21, 32, 41 and 45 are independent.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time during a telephonic interview ("Interview") on April 7, 2003. During the Interview, the Examiner expressed concerns regarding the language "programming interface." Applicants believe various of the claims avoid the Examiner's concerns; others have been amended for clarification.

Information Disclosure Statement

As noted in earlier paperwork, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") with a two-page Form 1449 on April 24, 2001. In the final Office Action dated February 27, 2003, page one of the 1449 was initialed and returned, indicating it had been considered; page two was not returned. Copies of the earlier paperwork and associated postcard were sent in earlier communications to the Office.

Because the IDS was timely filed, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to provide Applicants with a copy of the initialed page two to indicate the references were properly considered. For the convenience of the Examiner, another copy of page two is included herewith as Exhibit B. Another copy of the references can be obtained by contacting the undersigned attorney.

Cited Art

U.S. Patent No. 6,192,118 to Bayless et al. ("Bayless") is entitled "Computer Telephone System and Method Having a Graphical User Interface."

Patentability of Claims 13-20 and 28-45 over Bayless under § 102(e)

The Action rejects claims 13-20 and 28-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bayless. Applicants respectfully submit the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art. For a 102(e) rejection to be proper, the cited art must show each and every element as set forth in a claim. (*See* MPEP § 2131.01.) However, the cited art does not so show.

Claim 13

Claim 13 has been amended to recite "wherein the software platform exposes a programmatic programming interface operable to provide functionality for customizing the user interface." For example, the Application describes at page 4, lines 16-21:

> This platform includes program modules that provide some default user interface elements and programming interfaces. The implementer may customize the user interface by modifying a default user interface element or by creating custom program modules. The custom program modules may implement programming interfaces defined in the software platform, and may interact with default program modules through their programming interfaces.

A more specific example is described at page 22, lines 2 et seq.:

> When the shell program starts up, it reads the pane definitions from the registry. For each registered pane, the shell calls a function in the shell application programming interface called ShellAddPane, passing the pane's CLSID as read from the registry. ShellAddPane in turn calls CoCreateInstance, requesting an IShellWindowPane interface pointer. It then invokes the method IShellWindowPane::Init through the pointer.

The Application's description of the programming interfaces indicates that they can be programmatic, unlike Bayless' "interface," such as the graphical user interface of FIGS. 5 & 6.

For at least these reasons, claim 13 and its dependent claims, 14-18 and 28-31, are allowable over Bayless.

Claim 19

Claim 19 has also been amended to recite "wherein the software platform exposes a programmatic programming interface operable to provide functionality for customizing the user interface." Therefore, claim 19 and its dependent claim, 20, are allowable for at least similar reasons given for claim 13.

Claim 32

Claim 32 recites "at run-time of the user interface, accepting an indication that a new user interface element is to be added to the user interface of the telephony device." As understood by Applicants, Bayless' description accompanying FIGS. 5 & 6 does mention a "GUI object builder" at column 12, line 17. However, as described at column 12, line 16 of Bayless, the windows are used "in the design mode," not "at run-time of the user interface" as claimed.

For at least these reasons, claim 32 and its dependent claims, 33-40, are allowable over Bayless under § 102.

Claim 41

Claim 41 recites "an application programming interface operable to enable customization of the user interface during run-time of the user interface." As understood by Applicants, Bayless' description accompanying FIGS. 5 & 6 does mention a "GUI object builder" at column 12, line 17. However, as described at column 12, line 16, the windows are used "in the design mode," not "at run-time of the user interface" as claimed. Further, the drawings and accompanying text of Bayless would not teach or suggest an *application programming interface ("API")* for customization as claimed.

For at least these reasons, claim 41 and its dependent claims, 42-44, are allowable over Bayless under § 102.

Claim 45

Claim 45 recites "wherein the function call calls a function in a programming interface exposed by the shell program, and wherein the programming interface facilitates customization of the user interface." As understood by Applicants, Bayless' description accompanying FIGS. 5 & 6 does mention a "GUI object builder" at column 12, line 17. However, Applicants do not find where Bayless describes a function call calls a function in a programming interface for facilitating customization as claimed.

For at least these reasons, claim 45 is allowable over Bayless under § 102.

Patentability of Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, and 21-26 over Bayless under § 102(e)

The Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8 12, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bayless. Applicants respectfully submit the claims in their present form are allowable over the cited art. For a 102(e) rejection to be proper, the cited art must show each and every element as set forth in a claim. (*See* MPEP § 2131.01.) However, the cited art does not so show.

The Examiner's Reliance on the Bayless Reference

The Examiner cites various sections and figures in Bayless as showing certain features. Applicants respectfully disagree with several of the Examiner's statements. For example:

The Examiner cites Figure 6 and column 12, lines 58-65 of Bayless as showing a *display screen with an application program selection area*. [*See* Final Action at p. 2.] According to Bayless at column 12, lines 42-43, Figure 6 shows a screen which may appear on display while using a GUI object builder. Window 106 in Figure 6 is titled "ObjDsgn." Window 112 in Figure 6 is titled "ObjectDetail." These windows allow a designer to assign various properties to an object and define how the object reacts to an event. [*See* Bayless at Figure 6; col. 12, lines 54-56.] Figure 6 does not show a display screen with an application program selection area. Column 12, lines 58-65 describes events that may correspond to various systems (e.g. a fax system or video system), GUI events, and telephony events. Column 12, lines 58-65 does not describe a display screen with an application program selection area.

The Examiner cites Figures 30 and 31 of Bayless as showing a *branding pane*. [*See* Final Action at pp. 2-3.] According to Bayless at column 3, lines 20-22, Figure 30 shows a color coded folder that may be associated with a directory entry. The window in Figure 30 shows contact information for a person. Figure 30 does not show a branding pane. According to Bayless at column 4, lines 23-25, Figure 31 shows an import window that may be used to import directory information from other applications. The window in Figure 31 is titled "Import Field Mappings." Figure 31 does not show a branding pane.

The Examiner cites Figure 34 and column 24, lines 40-64 of Bayless as showing a *message pane for displaying email, answering machine or fax messages*. [*See* Final Action at p. 3.] According to Bayless at column 4, lines 35-36, Figure 34 shows a make and answer calls window. Window 380 in Figure 34 is titled "Make & Answer Calls." Window 380 shows buttons for performing functions on telephone calls and fields displaying information for ongoing telephone calls. Figure 34 does not show a message pane for displaying email, answering machine or fax messages. Column 24, lines 40-64 describes importation of Novell's Netware network directory services information. Column 24, lines 40-64 does not describe a message pane for displaying email, answering machine or fax messages.

The Examiner also cites Figure 34 and column 24, lines 40-64 of Bayless as showing an *email element*. [*See* Final Action at p. 4.] Figure 34 shows a window 380 titled "Make &

Answer Calls" and does not show an email element. Column 24, lines 40-64 discusses importation of network directory services information and does not describe an email element.

The Examiner also cites Figure 34 and column 24, lines 40-64 of Bayless as showing *a message usage pane showing interface elements depicting the type of message.* Figure 34 is titled "Make & Answer Calls" and does not show a message usage pane showing interface elements depicting the type of message. Column 24, lines 40-64 discusses importation of network directory services information and does not describe a message usage pane showing interface elements depicting the type of message.

The Examiner cites column 19, lines 27-39 and column 17, lines 30-36 as showing an *online directory.* [*See* Final Action at p. 3.] Column 19, lines 27-39 describes a directory customization window. Column 19, lines 27-39 does not describe an online directory. Column 17, lines 30-36 describes a directories window which allows a user to visually determine whether a telephone directory is private or shared. Column 17, lines 30-36 does not describe an online directory.

The Examiner cites column 2, lines 58-62 and column 25, lines 40-50 as showing "the icons in the message pane reflect the status such as that the message was received." [*See* Final Action at p. 3.] Column 2, lines 58-62 describes telephone function buttons that present options to a user representing functions that may be performed on a call in a particular state. Column 2, lines 58-62 does not describe icons in a message pane. Column 25, lines 40-50 describes a call status object and a call information/control object. Column 25, lines 40-50 does not describe icons in a message pane.

The Examiner cites column 25, lines 12-15 as showing "these icons are user interface controls and initiate a message viewer." [*See* Final Action at p. 3.] Column 25, lines 12-15 provides a general introduction to a make and answer calls tool. Column 25, lines 12-15 does not describe icons that are user interface controls and initiate a message viewer.

Claim 1

> *Bayless fails to teach or suggest at least one element of claim 1.* Claim 1 recites in part:
>
>> a customizable area including at least one user interface element enabling the user to select a service of the telephony device, including any one of the following services: a compose e-mail service, and an online directory service.

[*See, e.g.,* Application at p. 9, line 20 – p. 20, line 5 and Fig. 2.]

Bayless does not teach or suggest a customizable area including at least one user interface element enabling the user to select a compose e-mail service or an online directory service. The Examiner cites several passages of Bayless, but the cited passages do not teach or suggest the claimed arrangement. For example, the Examiner cites column 12, lines 54-65 of Bayless as showing an email service. [*See* Final Action at p. 3.] At column 12, lines 54-65, Bayless states:

> As illustrated, the designer may assign various properties to the object as well as define how the object reacts to an event. Specifically, for each event, the designer may specify one or more actions that should be taken in response to an event in a user defined order. Events may correspond to systems mentioned above such as the graphical user interface, the telephony system, database system, E-mail system, fax system, video system, and/or voice mail system. Examples of GUI events may include a button being pressed on mouse 64, the mouse pointer being moved, or an object being disabled. Telephony events may include a call being placed on hold, a call arriving, or a call being terminated.

In this passage, Bayless mentions "events" that may correspond to an e-mail system. Elsewhere, Bayless mentions an "E-Mail client service provider" as an example of a client service provider that may be used with a computer telephone system. [*See* Bayless at col. 8, lines 42-50.] However, *Bayless does not teach or suggest a **user interface element** enabling a user to select a compose email service.*

The Examiner cites certain parts of Bayless as showing a customizable area. For example, at page 5 of the Final Action, the Examiner states:

> Applicants' arguments center on whether Bayless in fact shows the customizable area. Look for example in column 19 lines 25-46. The custom user interface module in fact provides functionality for customizing the user interface, via the programming interface. The online and email service are shown in the aforecited passages as shown above.

Column 19, lines 25-46 describes Figure 18, which shows "Customize Directories Toolbar" window, and Figure 19, which shows a flow chart of an example process by which directories may be added or customized. However, even if Bayless shows customization of directories, Bayless does not show an *online directory service.*

In addition, the Examiner attributes language to claim 1 that does not appear in claim 1. For example, the Examiner mentions the following items not recited in claim 1: a "user input device to select display elements"; a "data/time pane"; a "branding pane"; a "message pane"; and a "task pane." [*See* Final Action at pp. 2-3.]

To the extent the Examiner attributes language to the claims that does not appear in the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the language of the claims speaks for itself.

Because Bayless fails to describe at least one element recited in claim 1, the claim is not subject to a 102(e) rejection over Bayless, and Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn. For at least these reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims, 3-6, 26 and 27, are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 21

Bayless fails to teach or suggest at least one element of claim 21. Claim 21 recites:

a message area for displaying a visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages.

[*See, e.g.,* Application at page 10, lines 7-12 and Fig. 3.]

Bayless does not teach or suggest a message area for displaying a visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages. The Action relies on various passages and figures in Bayless; however, the passages and figures do not teach or suggest the claimed arrangement.

For example, the Examiner cites Figure 34 of Bayless. As explained above, Figure 34 shows a "Make & Answer Calls" window, which displays information about various telephone calls. No visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages is shown in Figure 34. Bayless does not teach or suggest "a visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages."

Because Bayless fails to describe at least one element recited in claim 21, the claim is not subject to a 102(e) rejection over the reference, and Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn. For at least the above reasons, claim 21 and its dependent claims, 22-25, are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 8

Bayless fails to teach or suggest at least one element of claim 8. Claim 8 recites in part:

a branding area for displaying a brand graphic.

[*See, e.g.,* Application at page 9, lines 12-21 and Fig. 2.]

Bayless does not teach or suggest a branding area for displaying a brand graphic. In its rejection of claim 8, the Action relies on various passages and figures in Bayless; however, the passages and figures do not teach or suggest the claimed arrangement.

The Examiner cites Figures 30 and 31 of Bayless as showing a "branding pane." [*See* Final Action at pp. 2-3.] As explained above, Figure 30 shows contact information for a person and Figure 31 shows an import window that may be used to import directory information from other applications. Figures 30 and 31 do not show a branding area or a brand graphic.

Because Bayless fails to describe at least one element recited in claim 8, the claim is not subject to a 102(e) rejection, and Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn. Claim 8 and its dependent claim, 12, are allowable over the cited art.

Request For Follow-Up Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.121(b)-(c)

1.   (Previously Amended)   A visual user interface for a telephony device with a screen display, the visual user interface comprising:

an application program selection area, including user interface controls for selecting application programs;

a call slip area, including a call slip user interface for displaying telephone line state information; and

a customizable area including at least one user interface element enabling the user to select a service of the telephony device, including any one of the following services: a compose e-mail service, and an online directory service.

3.   (Unchanged) The visual user interface of claim 1 wherein the customizable area includes one or more user interface panes that each display user interface elements of a corresponding application program.

4.   (Unchanged) The visual user interface of claim 1 including a message usage interface pane that displays user interface elements visually depicting a type of message received by a user in the telephony device.

5.   (Unchanged) The visual user interface of claim 4 wherein the user interface elements visually depicting a type of message comprise graphical icons indicating that the user has received a message.

6.   (Previously Amended)   The visual user interface of claim 5 wherein the graphical icons are user interface controls that respond to user input from an input device by initiating a message viewer to view the corresponding message.

8.   (Previously Amended)   A visual user interface for a telephony device with a screen display comprising the following user interface elements:

an application program selection area, including user interface controls for selecting application programs;

a call slip area, including a call slip user interface for displaying telephone line state information; and

a branding area for displaying a brand graphic.

12.   (Unchanged)   The interface of claim 8 wherein one or more of the display elements is customizable.

13.   (Twice Amended)   A method for developing software to run on a telephony device, the method comprising:

receiving a software platform for displaying a user interface on a display screen of the telephony device, wherein the software platform exposes a **programmatic** programming interface operable to provide functionality for customizing the user interface;

receiving default user interface program modules that each display default user interface elements in the user interface; and

creating a custom user interface program module, wherein the custom user interface program module uses the **programmatic** programming interface operable to provide functionality for customizing the user interface and displays a custom user interface element in the user interface.

14.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 13 further including:

enumerating the custom program module in a data structure of an operating system to enable the software platform to identify the custom user interface element and add the custom user interface element to the user interface.

15.   (Twice Amended)   The method of claim 13 further including:

receiving a definition of a **programmatic** programming interface for a pane, where the **programmatic** programming interface includes a function for creating a custom pane in the display screen of the telephony device; and

developing code for the custom pane that implements the **programmatic** programming interface according to the definition, the code implementing the function for creating the custom pane.

16.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 13 including:

receiving a set of application programs associated with the default user interface elements; and

for a selected default user interface element, selecting an associated application program from the set to be loaded onto and executed in the telephony device;

wherein the associated application program uses the selected default user interface element as a user interface.

17.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein the default program modules include a message program module for displaying a user interface for a message center application program in a message pane;

wherein the message center application program communicates state changes to the message program module, and wherein the message program module updates the message pane to reflect the state changes.

18.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 17 wherein the state changes include arrival of a fax, email, or answering message, and the message program module updates the message pane by displaying an indicator of the arrival of the message.

19.   (Twice Amended)   A computer readable medium having programming modules that control the display of a user interface of a screen phone, the programming modules including:

a shell program for controlling display of a user interface on a display screen of the screen phone, wherein the shell program exposes a **programmatic** programming interface operable to provide functionality for customizing the user interface;

default pane programs that each control display of default panes in the user interface, at least one of the default pane programs providing a user interface for a parent application program;

wherein the parent application program communicates state changes to the corresponding default pane program, and the corresponding default pane program updates the default pane to reflect the state changes.

20.   (Unchanged)   The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein:

the parent application program is a message program for managing messages received by the screen phone, including fax, e-mail or answering machine messages;

the corresponding default pane program is a message pane program, and the message pane program updates the message pane by displaying an indicator of the arrival of the message.

21.   (Previously Amended)   A visual user interface for a telephony device with a screen display, the visual user interface comprising:

an application program selection area, including user interface controls for selecting application programs;

a call area, including a user interface for displaying telephone line state information; and

a message area for displaying a visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages.

22.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 21 further comprises a user interface element for enabling a user to activate a compose e-mail service.

23.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 21 further comprising a branding area for displaying a brand graphic.

24.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 21 wherein one or more of the areas are customizable.

25.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 21 wherein the visual user interface is operable to be customized by adding additional user interface elements.

26.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 1 wherein the customizable area further includes a message display element for displaying answering machine, e-mail or fax messages for one or more users.

27.   (Unchanged)   The visual user interface of claim 1 wherein the customizable area further includes a branding display element for displaying a brand graphic.

28.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 13 further comprising creating a custom application program that uses the custom display element as a user interface and communicates state changes in the custom application program to the custom program module, wherein the custom program module is operable to update information displayed in the custom display element in response to the state changes.

29.   (Amended)   The method of claim 13 wherein the **programmatic** programming interface exposed by the software platform comprises the following function as a platform service for customizing the user interface:

a function for adding a pane to the user interface.

30.   (Amended)   The method of claim 29 wherein the **programmatic** programming interface exposed by the software platform further comprises the following function as a platform service for customizing the user interface:

registering the pane to receive messages related to a status change for the pane.

31.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 30 wherein the software platform offers the following platform service:

as a result of registering the pane, posting a message indicating a status change to the pane when an event related to a status change is detected.

32.   (Unchanged)   A computer-implemented method for providing run-time customization of a user interface of a telephony device, the method comprising:

at run-time of the user interface, accepting an indication that a new user interface element is to be added to the user interface of the telephony device; and

responsive to the accepting, adding the new user interface element to the user interface of the telephony device;

wherein the accepting facilitates customization of the user interface of the telephony device at run-time of the user interface.

33.   (Unchanged)   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 32.

34.   (Amended)   The method of claim 32 wherein the accepting is accomplished via a **programmatic** programming interface.

35.   (Amended)   The method of claim 34 further comprising:

via the **programmatic** programming interface, accepting an indication that the new user interface element is to be registered for receiving messages related to the new user interface element.

36.   (Amended)   The method of claim 35 wherein the **programmatic** programming interface further accepts a reference to the new user interface element.
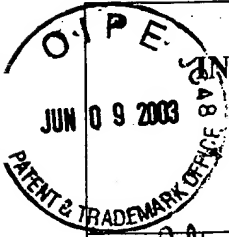
37.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 32 wherein the new user interface element comprises a new pane.

38.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 32 wherein the new user interface element enables a user to select a service provided by the telephony device.

39.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 32 wherein the new user interface element enables a user to activate a compose e-mail service.

40.   (Unchanged)   The method of claim 32 wherein the new user interface element enables a user to activate an online directory service.

PATENT

41.   (Unchanged)   A telephony device comprising:

a screen display;

a computer-readable medium; and

a user input device;

wherein the computer-readable medium has stored thereon a software platform comprising:

computer executable instructions for displaying a graphical user interface for the telephony device on the screen display; and

an application programming interface operable to enable customization of the user interface during run-time of the user interface.

42.   (Unchanged)   The telephony device of claim 41 wherein the graphical user interface comprises a message area for displaying a visual indicator of fax, e-mail, or answering machine messages.

43.   (Unchanged)   The telephony device of claim 41 wherein the graphical user interface comprises a user interface element for enabling a user to activate a compose e-mail service or an online directory service.

44.   (Unchanged)   The telephony device of claim 41 wherein the graphical user interface comprises a branding area for displaying a brand graphic.

45.   (Unchanged)   A method of communicating between a pane program and a shell program in a telephony device, wherein the shell program is operable to display a user interface for the telephony device, the method comprising:

providing a pane identifier in a function call, wherein the identifier is associated with a new pane to be added to the user interface; and

in response to the providing, creating an instance of the new pane in the user interface;

wherein the function call calls a function in a programming interface exposed by the shell program, and wherein the programming interface facilitates customization of the user interface.

#17

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Docket: 3382-51792	App: 09/383,038
	Applicant: Schnarel et al.	
BY APPLICANT	Filed: August 25, 1999	Art Unit: 2773

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			RECEIVED JUN 1 0 2003 Technology Center 2100

EXAMINER: *Sax*	DATE 6/03

*Examiner: Initial if considered, whether or not in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through cite if not in conformance and not considered. Send copy.

EXHIBIT B